and Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996 in their respective State. The State Governments are required to constitute State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, notify State Rules, constitute State Advisory Committee etc. in this respect.

The State Welfare Boards are collecting the cess, formulating and implementing various welfare schemes for building and construction workers. As per information received from the States, an amount of Rs.1042 crore approximately has been collected as cess and a sum of Rs.299 crore approximately has been spent by the States where Act is being implemented on various welfare schemes formulated by them.

The Government has recently taken a decision to extend Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to the building and other construction workers registered with the Welfare Boards constituted under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. The premium under the scheme would be borne by the Welfare Boards.

(d) The issue was discussed in the Central Advisory Committee but no decision has so far been taken in this regard by the Government.

Private Fund Managers for EPF

587. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund Trustees Board has decided to have three private fund managers, in addition to the SBI to manage huge EPF despite opposition by trade unions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the bids by Birla Sun Life and HDFC MF without taking any charge were rejected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Three Asset Management Companies, namely, HSBC, ICICI Prudential and Reliance Capital have been engaged in addition to the State Bank of India for managing the corpus of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation with the approval of Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) in its meeting held on 29.07.2008.

(c) and (d) A legal opinion was taken on whether a zero bid without any tangible consideration would constitute an enforceable contract. The opinion was in the negative. The above was placed for discussion at the meeting of the Finance and Investment Committee of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation on July 24th, 2008 and also before the Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) on 29.07.2008 and accordingly a decision was taken to disqualify 'zero bidders'.

Workforce as per Census Reports

588. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total workforce of the country as per the census reports of 1981,1991 and 2001;

(b) the percentage of those not having assured engagement in works;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ratio of unemployment is higher than that of increase of population; and

(d) how Government propose to meet the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The total workforce of the country as per the census reports of 1981,1991 and 2001 is given below:

Census	Workforce (in million)
1981	250.79
1991	317.36
2001	401.93

(b) As per 2001 census, about 10.1 per cent of the labour force was seeking/ available for work but unable to get.

(c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per Registrar General of India and the last two survey reports of NSSO (based on usual status approach) unemployment grew at a faster rate (3.70 per cent per annum) than that of population growth (1.71 per cent) rate during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05.

(d) The projections made for Eleventh Five Year Plan indicate that 58 million employment opportunities (as per Current Daily Status approach) would be created in the Eleventh Plan period which exceed the projected addition to the labour force of about 45 million.

Insurance scheme for jobless persons

†589.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an employment or unemployment insurance scheme is in place in foreign countries particularly in America and England for the persons rendered jobless;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to implement an insurance scheme on the same lines in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Some countries have adopted such insurance schemes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi